

8. SCORES OF MINERS KILLED.

**AN EXPLOSION WRECKS A MINE AND
BURIES 100 MEN IN THE RUINS.**

Over Fifty Persons Known to Have Perished Near Rich Hill, Mo.—The Bodies Fearfully Mutilated and Blackened by Coal Dust—Distressing Scenes Among Their Families—Hundreds of Women and Children Filling the Air with Cries of Anguish.

RICH HILL, Mo., March 29.—About 4 o'clock, this afternoon a rumbling noise was heard in No. 6, and a moment later there was a fearful explosion that entirely wrecked the mine and buried in the debris over one hundred miners, who were cut off from all means of escape. Forty dead bodies have already been removed from the shaft, while fifteen others remain unaccounted for. It is impossible, in the midst of the terrible excitement, to obtain a complete list of names of the unfortunate. The little village of Harrison, Mo., is the only place where men and women are wandering about the streets crying for the return of those known to be in the bottom of the pit.

The superintendent of the mine was badly injured, but alive when taken from the shaft. His face was horribly disfigured by the explosion, and the flesh of his arms and legs was torn off by the flying fragments of rock. The explosion occurred when the full force of 100 men were at work in the mine.

Not one of the survivors has been able to give any coherent story about the shock. The earth seemed to snap, and the next instant all was darkness.

Although the mine is six miles from town the explosion shook every house. Nearly every window in the district is a mass of splinters.

ment with the muddy streets leading to the shaft filled with bare-headed women and children, who screamed as they ran. Such scenes as have been witnessed at the mouth of the shaft in the old creek have no parallel in the Missouri coal fields. A thousand people, for the most part women and children in tattered clothes, are still at the pit filling the night air with their lamentations.

The prospect of recovering the bodies is being prevented by frantic haste, but the task is so great as to be postponed. The bodies already removed from the pit show the terrific force of the explosion. Coal dust has been blown into the flesh of the dead until they look like the bodies of negroes. Some of the bodies are frightfully mutilated. Arms, legs, and eyes have been blown off. The bodies are lying in their sockets, while others of the unfortunates have been so cruelly disfigured as to be unrecognizable.

The dead are strewn through the corridors of the mine, and it is feared that all of them will never be recovered, as gas is filling the pit.

There was a series of explosions. The first, which shook the country for miles around, was followed a few moments later by another shock of even greater violence than the first. The flames began to pour from the mouth of the shaft, and in a few moments a shower of fire nearly 100 feet in height was streaming skyward. After the first explosion Superintendent Sweeney descended into the mine. He had gone but a short distance when the second shock came, the flames enveloping the Superintendent and his aid.

Nearly all of them are supposed to be lost.

At 9 o'clock to-night there was another explosion, and again the flames roared from the mouth of the shaft, illuminating the country for miles around.

The flames are now within 200 feet of the

plives are stored.

As the night wears on the stories brought to town as to the number of the dead and the living become more conflicting.

At midnight it is reported that over eighty lives have been lost, and that the bodies recovered from the scorching furnace do not exceed fifteen.

It is also reported that Superintendent Sweeney has also been lost, although it was positively declared early in the evening that he had been rescued in a dying condition.

While it has been seen that those imprisoned in the pit could not live in such a crater, the mine was flooded, but the water did not extinguish the fire, which continues to burn fiercely.

The grief-stricken people at the mine are helpless to render aid, but they refuse to return to their homes.

Gould and the Lawyers.

Lawyer E. L. Andrews made yesterday this formal statement for himself and Mr. Delaney and Dr. Lacey Nicol:

"We do not propose to assist Mr. Gould any further by diverting attention from his case before the Recorder." Andrews stated last night that Gould contemplated criminal proceedings.

Signal Office Prediction.

Light to fresh westerly winds, warmer, fair weather.

JOTTINGS ABOUT 107N.

Jacob H. Brown, from the Frons ship company, is here, and will be here for some time. He is anxious to get a new house, but he has no money to do so. He is now living in a small house on the corner of the city.

The failure of Louis L. Zenger, co-proprietor of the South William street, was announced on the Cotton line. James V. Walker, the peddler of counterfeit nickels, has been sentenced by Judge Benedict to three years in the penitentiary for his crime.

The latest report as to the contract for laying the new mill-dam pipe for the new aqueduct is that the commissioners may reject all the bids and advertise for a new one.

The steamer De Kuyper, from Antwerp, went around the city yesterday morning, but failed on arrival without having any passengers.

The North German Lloyd steamer Rania, that put around down the bay in the fog on Wednesday night, was reported to have been on her voyage yesterday morning.

The salary of Joseph J. Couch, Comptroller and acting Mayor of the city, was fixed at \$10,000, and that of Edward H. Jones, clerk, at \$5,000 a year.

Judge Oliverleeves sent Louis Peterson to the Penitentiary for four months yesterday for shooting at a woman named Emma, Hansen and others, who were married by him the court would let him go.

Joseph Hummel, 63 years old, a crayon artist, of 85 N. 1st street, was arrested yesterday morning for the theft of a crayon and went to Midway's and was released on \$500 bail.

Among the things found on the body of a man from the North River at Helmsme street, taken from the water yesterday morning, was a crayon and a crayon artist, of 85 N. 1st street, was arrested yesterday morning for the theft of a crayon and went to Midway's and was released on \$500 bail.

[illegible]